

25 Jan 45

Dear Nell -

I hope you will forgive me for not writing sooner - Any army surgeon spends half of his time operating and the other half in writing charts, boards, forms, etc, etc - Now, for the first time in over a month I am beginning to get temporarily caught up on all the paper work that I have to do on my ward.

First, thank you for the beautiful, wonderfully warm vest - Eli: 'it is really swell!' I have had numerous people ask where they can get one, too. The weather over here is of two kinds - bad and worse - it is always cold - sometimes it warms up enough to snow or even enough to rain and make the snow slushy - This is the worst climate I have ever seen, so I have really made good use of the vest. Also, thank you for the pictures - Oh! I love them - they are won-

deaf - they mean more to me than words can tell. Darby forwarded to me your letter about all the rolls that were lost - Oh me! I know that we were all heart-broken - I know how long you saved up film to have that much and how hard you worked to take the beautiful pictures - it was a real tragedy, but maybe after this Christmas rush is over they will find the films somewhere. Also, thank you for the delicious cookies from your big kitchen in West Branch - Carl and I loved them.

The war news is really a pleasure to read and hear now days - everywhere the Allies are advancing - maybe we shall soon see the end of all of this horror of killing and wounding and misery - then, we can all return to peaceful, productive, happy lives again. I get so homesick and lonely that I could scream.

Lu! So happy over the prospects of becoming an uncle again - I know that Betty and John are happy - they are an ideal couple and will make wonderful parents for the new grandchild - I understand that everyone predicts that it will be the first granddaughter - My intuition tells me that is right.

I had better get back to work. In spite of my writing so infrequently, I think of you and miss you constantly - I love your letters and I hope you
Dorothy